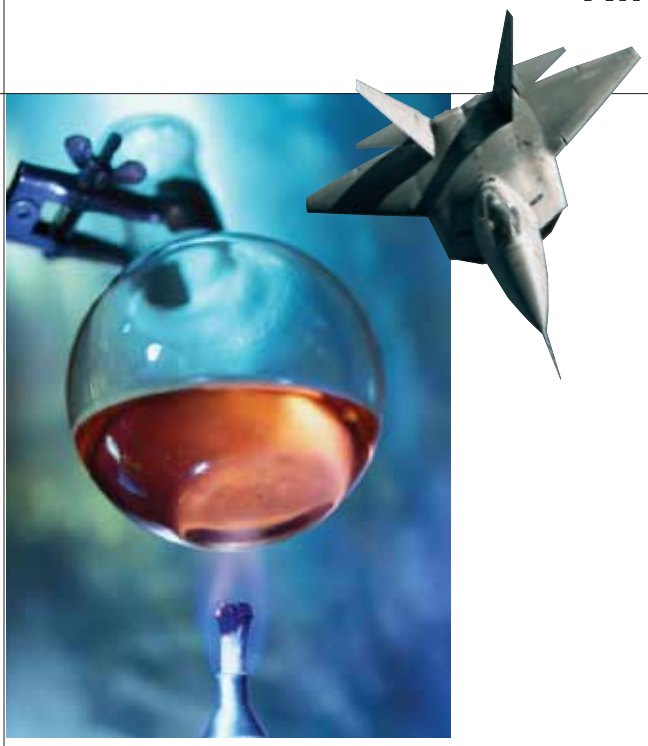
Air Force STTR Program



Small businesses, universities and research institutions partnering for research and technology development.

Air Force Research Laboratory | AFRL
Science and Technology for Tomorrow's Aerospace Force

Overview

The federal Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program encourages small businesses to team up with universities or research institutions for research and technology development. STTR provides small business the dual benefits of government research opportunities and funding, while encouraging research partnerships with the academic sector. The goals of STTR are to spur economic growth and strengthen industrial competitiveness.

STTR offers a prized opportunity for small technology companies to obtain important funding for early-stage, high-risk research and development (R&D) projects. It also allows these businesses to retain the data rights necessary for future commercialization of the technology.

Congress authorized the STTR Program as a pilot program in 1992 to fund cooperative R&D projects. It joins two powerful forces for technological progress: the entrepreneurial spirit of the high-tech small business with the science and engineering expertise and considerable resources of the nations' universities and research institutes. In 1997 the federal STTR program was established as a permanent program. It is currently funded at approximately $60 million. The Department of Defense's (DoD) STTR budget is over $30 million while the Air Force's share of that budget is approximately $10 million.

STTR helps move ideas from the laboratory to the marketplace while benefiting both the military and the commercial sector. The U.S. Air Force continues to benefit from this highly productive research partnership program, as have participating small businesses and their research institution partners.

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Competitive Program

Under STTR, contracts are competitively awarded to small businesses for research and development projects conducted in cooperation with research institutions. While the primary goal of this cooperative effort is to develop innovative solutions to challenging DoD scientific and engineering problems, those proposals having the greatest potential for commercialization are of particular interest and are given priority consideration for awards.

Historically, about 15 percent of STTR proposals are awarded a Phase I contract; however, in recent yearly solicitations, fully 30 percent of STTR Phase I proposals were awarded a Phase I contract. Approximately 40 percent of phase I projects subsequently are awarded a Phase II contract.

Three Phase Process

Phase I: One-year award of up to $100,000 to determine the scientific, technical and commercial feasibility of the proposed cooperative effort.

Phase II: Up to $500,000 awarded for a 24-month period to further develop the concept of a Phase I effort. Contract award selections are based on results from Phase I work, the scientific and technical merit of the proposal, and the commercial potential of the proposal.

Phase III: A small business is expected to pursue private-sector or federal-agency funding (outside the STTR program) to commercialize Phase II STTR projects.

Qualifying For STTR

- Enterprise must qualify as a small business
- Minimum of 40 percent of the STTR project must be carried out by the small business;
- Minimum of 30 percent of the effort must be performed by the research institution;
- Written agreement must be negotiated with the research institution;
- Phase I and Phase II research work must be performed by the small business and the research institution in the United States.

Note: Joint ventures and limited partnerships are permitted for the small business provided the entity created qualifies as a small business.

Eligible Research Institutions

- Non-profit university or college;
- Non-profit institution owned and operated exclusively for scientific or educational purposes;
- Contractor-operated, federally funded, R&D center (FFRDC).

“Fast Track” Process

The DoD STTR Program offers a Fast Track process featuring the opportunity for small companies to leverage their STTR funds to obtain additional funding from outside investors. “Fast Track,” offers matching funds of between $1 and $4 in DoD STTR funds for every $1 the investor puts in.

Air Force Research Laboratory

The Air Force STTR Program is managed by the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). AFRL's mission is leading the discovery, development and integration of affordable warfighting technologies for our aerospace forces. Its partners and teammates include both academia and industry, with whom AFRL invests almost 80% of its budget in sponsored research and development.

For additional information on AFRL contact 1-937-904-9201 or check the web page: www.afrl.af.mil

Getting Started In the STTR Program

To get started in STTR first obtain the current solicitation. To receive hard copies of current and future STTR solicitations place your name and address on the SBIR/STTR mailing list. To get your name on the mailing list and to get answers to basic questions on the STTR program call (800) 382-4634.

Additional information:

For information on the Air Force STTR program contact:
www.sbirsttr.com

For complete descriptions of Air Force STTR topics see "Small Business Opportunities" at http://afosr.sciencewise.com/

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Arlington, VA 22203-1613
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DoD's STTR program contact:
DoD STTR Program
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T: (703) 696-7315
www.afrl.af.mil (*See Small Business Opportunities*)

Some of the research institutions involved in the Air Force STTR Program include:

University of Alabama
University of Arkansas
University of Arizona
Lawrence Livermore National Lab
Stanford University
UCLA
University of California, Berkeley
University of Southern California
University of Connecticut
University of Florida
Georgia Tech Research Corporation
University of Georgia
University of Chicago
University of Illinois
Purdue University
University of Kansas
Boston University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MIT Lincoln Laboratory
MIT Plasma Fusion Center
MIT Space Systems Laboratory
University of Massachusetts
Johns Hopkins University
University of Maryland
University of Maine
Michigan State University
University of North Carolina
Rutgers University
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Sandia National Laboratory
University of New Mexico
Syracuse University
Case Western Reserve University
University of Dayton Research Institute
University of Akron
Pennsylvania State University
University of Pittsburgh
Brown University
Fisk University
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
The University of the South
Vanderbilt University
University of Utah
Old Dominion University
University of Virginia
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
University of Washington
Washington State University